



JSEC Taking Flight

December 2007

**Glendive Job Service Workforce Center ~ 211 South Kendrick
Office 377-3314 Fax 377-5831**

Contact Job Service for all your business needs.

MONTANA 2008 MINIMUM WAGE

Pursuant to Initiative 151, the **Montana minimum wage will increase to \$6.25 effective January 1, 2008.**

Initiative 151 requires an adjustment to the minimum wage to be calculated no later than September 30 of each year based upon any increase in the U.S. City Average Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for All Items ("CPI) from August of the preceding year to August of the year in which the calculation is made. This amount is to be rounded to the nearest five cents. The current 2007 minimum wage rate is \$6.15. Based on an increase in the CPI of 1.97% from August, 2006 to August, 2007, the calculation used for determining the minimum wage rate for 2008 is as follows:

$$\$6.15 \times .0197 = \$1.211, \text{ rounded to } \$0.10$$

The initiative also states the minimum wage to be the greater of the federal or current state minimum wage. **Effective July 24, 2008, the minimum wage will increase to \$6.55 per hour**, based on the federal minimum wage increase.

JSEC Members

- Cindy Berg, Eastern Montana Industries
- Lee Boyles, Glendive Medical Center
- Pat Cunningham, Dawson Community College
- Jim Germann, Dawson County High School
- Nick Haag, Montana Dakota Utilities
- Peg Iba, Horizons LeadershipPlenty
- Valerie Limesand, Boys and Girls Club
- Sandi McGovern, Glendive Medical Center
- Kim Trangmoe, Chamber of Commerce & Ag
- Bill Wade, Mid-Rivers Communications
- Tim Wall, Community First Bank
- Lonnie Cross, Job Service Manager
- Darla Handran, Newsletter



JSEC CAREER FAIR

Students from Broadus, Wibaux, Richey, Savage, and Dawson County High Schools attended Career Fair 2007 on November 7th. They visited their selection of the 29 businesses present in the DCHS gym to gain knowledge about the kinds of careers available in their own home towns.

The JSEC created a Career Search Activity for the students to facilitate interaction with the businesses. Each student completing the activity was entered in a drawing for an iPod Shuffle. The winners were Derek McDowell—Broadus, Naomi Jensen—Richey, Karissa Linn—Glendive and Justin Wood—Glendive.

JSEC added a morning session designed for 8th graders to this year's Fair. Members set up three learning stations to illustrate Appropriate Attire, Good/Bad Job Interviews, and Job Application Basics. Students completed these activities in addition to browsing through the business booths.

Career Fair 2007 was a success! Thanks to all who contributed to it.

Open House

We will be hosting an Open House in honor of the 20th anniversary of JSEC on Thursday, January 17, 2008.

4 p.m.—6 p.m.
211 S Kendrick Ave.
Glendive Job Service

Plan to stop by for cake and coffee.



I-9 Form

On Wednesday, November 7, 2007, the USCIS released a revised Employment Eligibility Verification Form (I-9), which is now available for use. It is a federal requirement that US employers complete an I-9 form for all employees within the first three days of employment, and retain the form for one year after termination of employment or three years, whichever is longer. While employers may start using the form immediately, it will officially become effective when posted in the federal register at a later date. You can access an on-line version at: <http://www.formi9.com>

Greetings of the Season from the Glendive Job Service Workforce Center!



Back: Lonnie Cross, Dawn Guenzi
Front: Connie Balcer, Darla Handran

Work Opportunity Tax Credit

Area Employers could be eligible for up to \$9,000 in federal tax credits.

The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) is a federal tax credit that reduces the federal tax liability of private employers who hire from nine targeted groups. If you hire an individual from a WOTC targeted group your company may be eligible for up to \$9,000 in federal tax credits.

Nineteen Counties in Montana were classified as Rural Renewal Counties which meets the criteria of being a Designated community Resident (one of the targeted groups under the WOTC program). A rural renewal county is a county in a rural area that lost population during the 5-year periods 1990 through 1994 and 1995 through 1999. Those counties in Montana are: Carter, Daniels, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Garfield, Hill, Liberty, McCone, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sheridan, Valley, and Wibaux.

Individuals (employee's) residing within these counties must be at least 18 but not yet 40 and meet the other program requirements such as completing an IRS Form 8850 on or before the job is offered and submitting it within 28 days of the employee hire date, no rehires (can't have worked for the company prior) are eligible and the new hire must stay employed for at least 120 hours over the first year of employment (part-time, full-time or seasonal).

For more information regarding this tax credit and/or obtaining documentation, contact the Montana Workforce Services Division - WOTC Unit at (406) 444-9046/(800) 726-0615.

Interested in becoming a member of JSEC?
Call JSEC Chair, Bill Wade at 687-3336 or any JSEC member.

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